

*St. John's Evangelical Church
211 E. Carrol Street
Kenton, Ohio 43326
(Non Profit Organization)*

**Do Not Delay
Dated Material**

JANUARY



St. John's Evangelical Church Newsletter January 2018

211 E. Carrol Street
Kenton, OH 43326
Church Phone: 419-673-7278
Pastor Randall cell: 724-290-3651
Office Hours: Monday—Friday (9 AM—1 PM)

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Website: www.stjohnskenton.org
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Annual Congregational Meal & Meeting— January 28 @ 4:30 PM

The Annual Congregational Meal & Meeting has been set for Sunday, January 28. We will have a covered dish dinner in the fellowship hall at 4:30 PM followed by the Annual Meeting.

The church will provide the meat and drinks. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share.

Mark your calendar and plan on attending this important meeting! Any questions, please email or call the office at 419-673-7278.

Thank You!



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

211 East Carrol Street
Kenton, OH 43326

REV. DR. RANDALL J. FORESTER, PASTOR & TEACHER

Phone: 419-673-7278 (o)

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JANUARY 2018

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

I know at times I can sound like a broken record. I repeat myself. I state things redundantly. I will say the same thing over and over again, and even then I will say it one more time. My thoughts become repetitive. I should reiterate that I understand that I run through the same thoughts again and again, so I will not recap what I have already said repeatedly in just the first few sentences.

Still, I will parrot my thoughts from years gone by. Every January, for years on end, I have encouraged the church members I am serving to embark on a journey through the Bible. At first, I thought it would be something I would do to engage people in the discipline of daily studying the Word of God—a mark of a disciple of Jesus is one who wants to know Him and His Word—the one's He spoke (the Gospels), the ones that inspired Him (the Old Testament), and the ones that teach about Him (the New Testament). I have given people practical advice on accomplishing this take. For instance, a person who reads at an average level and average speed can read through the entire Bible by reading about 15-20 minutes per day.

I have tried to impress on people the importance of knowing what the Bible says. After all, as Christians, how can we assert what is right if we do not hear the Truth from its source? How can we measure what someone says in the name of God

unless we go back to the Bible, which should be the inspiration for all Christian truth?

This year, I am again returning to this same theme. I am asking you, the members and friends of St. John's Evangelical Church, to take up the Bible and read it from cover to cover. Read it in biblical order from Genesis-Revelation. Read it in chronological

order (you can find Bibles and reading plans that do this). Read it according to a daily plan that includes a selection from the Psalms, the Old Testament, the Gospels, and the New Testament. Find a method that works for you, and go for it.

Be fed by the Word of God. It is food for the soul.

Take up and read is more than a suggestion, it is a command from God. St. Augustine, who I often quote and inspired the early Church, the Reformers, and generations of Christians, once led a profligate life. He was wrestling in his heart with following God. One day as he was struggling with this, he was sitting in a garden when he heard through the bushes a child chanting in singsong fashion, "Tolle lege. Tolle lege." Augustine looked around and found a "volume of the Apostle" as he called it and read. It

was **Romans 13:14-15**, which states that we should give up worldly ways, put on Christ, and not follow the ways of the flesh. In that moment, Augustine was changed forever.

That's why we read the Bible as Christians. In reading, we are sanctified. We are changed. We are made into the image of Christ Jesus. On those

pages, we encounter the Holy Spirit, and we are moved forward in our faith, our feet planted in the path that our Savior has blazed for us.

In the opening words of his gospel, John harkens back to the opening words of the Bible. In **Genesis 1:1**, we are told that in the beginning God created all things.

He did this by speaking. In **John 1:1**, we are told that in the beginning there was the Word, and that Word was God. Reading on, we discover that the Word is Christ who is one of the three Persons who comprise the Trinity that make up the Godhead—one God, three persons.



**"In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God."**

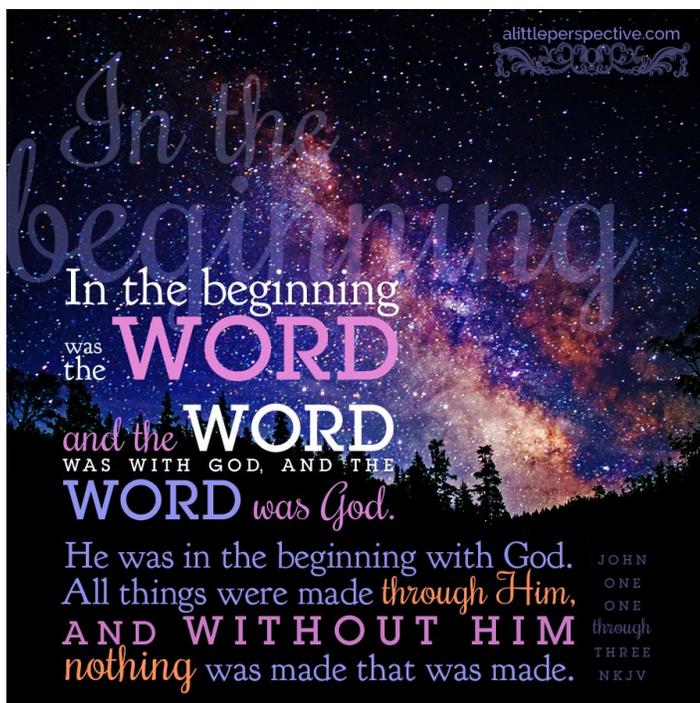
John 1:1 (KJV)

King James Bible Online.org

**In the beginning was the
Word, and the Word was
with God, and the Word
was God.—John 1:1**

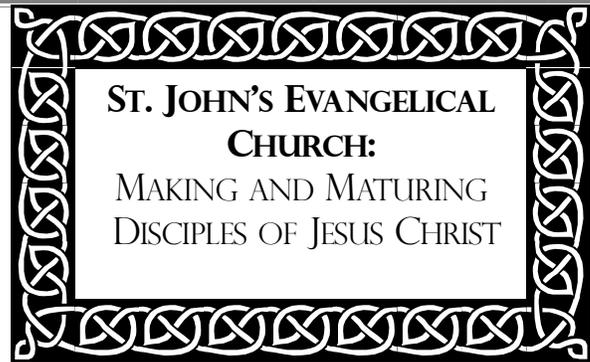
The Word is God's revelation of Himself to His people and to the world. God wants to be in conversation with us. He wants to speak into our lives and inspire to live righteous and holy lives. He wants to share His inmost desires and plans with us. However, this isn't comprehended by hearing a few snippets once or twice a week in worship, Sunday School, or a life group.

I repeatedly remind people to take up and read because there is so much to absorb. On a spiritual level, it is wise to cover the same ground because God speaks to us in different ways with the same words. For instance, one year when I read, God spoke to me over and over again with the words, "Be of good courage and do not fear." I was amazed at how often and in how many ways that thought appeared in the



Bible. In 2017, I was struck by the sovereignty of God—He is firmly in control. I saw how God spoke and demonstrated that He alone wins the victories for His people. He alone is our salvation. Time and again, when things looked darkest or bleakest, God shows up in the Bible to redeem and save. God was saying through many transitions in the church, "I am still here, I am at work in these times, and I will bring about a great work. Keep believing and remain faithful."

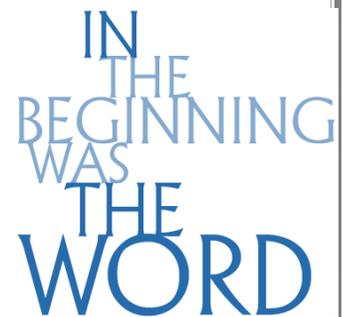
God keeps speaking into my life every time I open the pages of the Bible. I eagerly await what He will reveal to me in 2018. What He will say is not some secret message in a special code. God speaks plainly into my life as He does for every believer. All He asks is that we be willing to listen, truly listen. How often did Jesus say, "Whoever has ears, let them



hear"?

To read through the Bible in a year takes more than time and commitment. To accomplish this task in a godly fashion takes humility. This adventure will be doomed to failure if you only want to rediscover what you already know or if you want to reinforce your own biases or preconceived notions. This isn't a tedious labor to just get done, so you can move on to something else. To do this right, this has to be an exercise of joy.

Instead of saying, "I havvveeee to read my Bible." You should be saying with all heartfelt emotion, "I GET to encounter God today in His Word!!!" When we come to the Bible hoping to see God in all His glory and power and wonder, we meet Him and discover more about Him, His ways, and ourselves.



If you travel over that ground again and again and again, you find yourself traveling with old friends—passages that have grown to be a part of you—and you find new friends to join your merry band.

And...if you do this with eyes and ears wide open, having heart and mind that seek to be filled, you will encounter the Holy Spirit who will pour the riches of Heaven into your soul. In the Bible, you will find comfort and peace. With each step through each passage, you will be shaped and formed in your faith. Most of all, if you set out on this journey, you will discover Jesus in fresh new ways along with comforting old ways, and you will find the fullness of His love and joy for you.

Let me know what you discover on your journey!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Randall

January 2018 Preaching Series

A while back, I introduced you to Amazing Grace the cow during a sermon series on the amazing grace of God. In January, we are going to engage in a time of reflection on aspects of what the church should be. To help me, I have enlisted the help of Jonathan Johan Juan John Johnson-Juarez-Jones, the Platypus. He has such a long name, so you can call him J7 or Johan for short.

A platypus will help us to understand some of the exceptional aspects of what comprises a church. To truly be the Church, the hands and feet of Christ at work in the world [see **I Corinthians 12:12-31**]. Some of the things we are called to do as church can seem to require vastly different skills and gifts to accomplish. Sometimes, those gifts can almost seem to be contradictory.

That's why a platypus is instructive to us. Just looking at a platypus, one of your first thoughts should be, "Did God just have a few spare parts left over? Is that how a platypus came to be?" It doesn't look like those very different parts should work together, and yet they do. The same is true in the church. It takes people with very different gifts and talents to come together and work together under the headship of Christ if we want to accomplish anything of lasting value for the kingdom of God.

Looking at the church, it can seem like God has taken a lot of spare parts and smushed them together, and that is exactly what He has done. God picks the unlikeliest of people to come together to work together.

Viewed from afar, it can look as though this is an experiment doomed to failure. However, when those parts start to move together something beautiful occurs. There is harmony and there is ability to do amazing things, but only when the parts work together. The platypus is uniquely created to work in its environment. We are brought together here at St. John's to work together in a unique manner.

As we move into a fresh year, we need to look at the unique parts God wants us to highlight as we move forward into 2018 and beyond. To do that, we will have a sermon series based on the acronym H.E.M. The letters form the word hem, which implies a border or a fence. For some, the word hem can sound restrictive, but we will see how it provides a space for our freedom.

In 2018, we need to discover the space in which we have to operate. Sometimes these are Sabbaths,

breaks from our routines. Sometimes, these are God's laws and instruction. These are never to hinder us. These protect us. They are the pen that enfolds the sheep (see **John 10:1-18**). These are the margins on the page that give us the space to create and to be understood.

What are we to express with this freedom that we have been given? One thing is the love we give to one another. We express this through hospitality, the h in hem. Hospitality is receiving friends, guests, and even strangers into our lives. Hospitality builds the bonds that unite us. It is something we need in the church as build up our fellowship



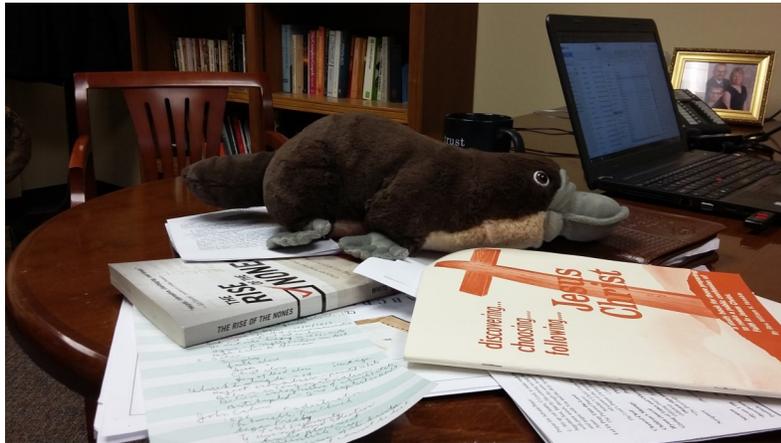
Johan studies the Church in the pastor's study.

here. We need to understand that we are one church. We may come and worship at different times. We may have different gifts and talents. We may be a lot of things, but at our core we are called here to be ONE church under the ONE headship/leadership that is Christ and Christ alone. Our identity is that we are ONE body knit together by the Holy Spirit.

Like a body, we are called to do more than occupy space. We are formed to do something. That something we are called to do will occupy the last two weeks of January. We are called to evangelize, share our faith in Christ with others. Alongside sharing our faith, we are called to serve others. To me, these go hand in hand. How can we share our faith if we do not demonstrate our faith in action (**James 2:14-26**)? How will our good works have any meaning if we do not have those works guided by God's plan and way (see **Matthew 5:13-16**)?

These aspects of the church also reinforce one another. As we grow in relationship with one another in the faith, we naturally encourage godly and God-driven attributes and actions in one another. As we serve together to speak of God's love to others and to minister to their needs, we recognize how the work is best done together, so we seek spiritual friends who will stand with us and serve with us. To be the church we are called to be, we need one another. In serving together and in loving one another, we strengthen the church, so that she can do all she is called to do in this generation.

In January, may we hear God's Word for His church here. Throughout the year, may we



put into practice what He teaches us through His Word and by His Holy Spirit. May we see how Johan the platypus shows us how our diversity is our strength. Instead of being like the world and allowing our differences to divide, may we come together in Christ and be renewed in our desire to serve here as God calls us to do—together as ONE for the glory of our Heavenly Father, committed together to the end.

H.E.M.—Hospitality Evangelism Missions

07 January—within God-given boundaries is freedom

Scripture: **Psalm 65**

Mark 1:35-39

Sermon:
Hemmed In

14 January—
Hospitality

Scripture:
I Peter 4:8-9

Matthew 8:14-17

Sermon: **Get Up and Serve**
21 January—Evangelism

Scripture: **Romans 10:11-15**

Matthew 9:37-38

Sermon: **Beautiful Feet**

28 January—Missions

Scripture: **Jeremiah 1:4-19**

Acts 1:6-8

Sermon: **Witnesses in Work**

FYI—**Ash Wednesday** falls on February 14th, which places Easter on April 1st.



Book-at-a-Time Bible Reading Plan

The book-at-a-time Bible reading plan provides two readings for each day.

The first reading alternates between Old and New Testament books, giving you three or four chapters a day. The Gospels are spread throughout the year.

The second reading takes you through a chapter or so of the wisdom literature and Isaiah. Combined, these readings will take you through the entire Bible in one year.

To prevent the frustration of falling behind and to provide some reflection time, each month consists of only 25 readings. You'll have several days each month to meditate more deeply on something that was significant to you in the past week, to catch up on missed readings, or to revisit favorite passages.

Subscribe to **Discipleship Journal** online: www.discipleshipjournal.com
By phone: 1-800-877-1811 | By mail: P.O. Box 5548, Harlan, IA 51593-3048

(September continued)

Job	Isaiah
21	
22	6
23	9
24	10
25	11
26	12
27	13
28	14

(November continued)

John	Psalms
10	136
11	137
12	138
13	139
14	Reflection
15	140
16	141
17	142
18	143
19	144
20	145
21	Reflection
22	146
23	147
24	148
25	149
26	150
27	Isaiah
28	40
	41

OCTOBER

Jeremiah	Isaiah
1	15
2	16
3	17
4	18
5	19
6	20
7	Reflection
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26
14	Reflection
15	27
16	28
17	29
18	30
19	31
20	32
21	Reflection
22	33
23	34
24	35
25	36
26	37
27	38
28	39

DECEMBER

2 Thess.	Isaiah
1	42
2	43
3	44
4	45
5	46
6	47
7	Reflection
8	48
9	49
10	50
11	51
12	52
13	53
14	Reflection
15	54
16	55
17	56
18	57
19	58
20	59
21	Reflection
22	60
23	61
24	62
25	63
26	64
27	65
28	66

NOVEMBER

Ezekiel	Psalms
1	123-124
2	125-126
3	127
4	128-129
5	130-131
6	132
7	Reflection
8	133-134
9	135

FEBRUARY

Exodus	Proverbs
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	Reflection
8	7
9	8
10	9
11	10-16
12	10-17-32
13	10-12
14	Reflection
15	11-15
16	11-16-31
17	12-1-14
18	12-15-28
19	13-1-12
20	13-13-25
21	14-1-18
22	Reflection
23	14-19-35
24	15-1-17
25	15-18-33
26	16-1-16
27	16-17-33
28	17-1-14
	17-15-28

JANUARY

Genesis	Psalms
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	Reflection
8	7
9	8
10	9
11	10
12	11
13	12
14	Reflection
15	13
16	14
17	15
18	16
19	17
20	18:1-24
21	Reflection
22	18:25-50
23	19
24	20
25	21
26	22:1-11
27	22:12-31
28	23

(April continued)

MARCH		
1	Hebrews	1-3
2		4-6
3		7-10
4		11-13
5	Numbers	1-3
6		4-7
7		Reflection
8		8-10
9		11-14
10		15-17
11		18-21
12		22-24
13		25-27
14		Reflection
15		28-30
16		31-33
17		34-36
18	Galatians	1-3
19		4-6
20	Deuteronomy	1-4
21		Reflection
22		5-7
23		8-10
24		11-13
25		14-16
26		17-19
27		20-22
28		23-26

(April continued)

MAY		
22	Matthew	20-22
23		23-25
24		26-28
25	Judges	1-3
26		4-6
27		7-9
28		10-12
1	Judges	13-15
2		16-18
3		19-21
4	Romans	1-3
5		4-5
6		6-8
7		Reflection
8		9-11
9		12-13
10		14-16
11	Ruth	1-3
12	Ephesians	1-3
13		4-6
14		Reflection
15	1 Samuel	1-3
16		4-6
17		7-9
18		10-12
19		13-15
20		16-19
21		Reflection
22		20-22
23		23-25
24		26-28
25	Philippians	29-31
26	2 Samuel	1-3
27		4-7
28		

(June continued)

JULY		
11	1 Kings	10-12
12		13-15
13		16-19
14		Reflection
15		20-22
16	Jonah	
17	Philemon	
18	2 Kings	1-4
19		5-7
20		8-11
21		Reflection
22		12-14
23		15-18
24		19-21
25		22-25
26	Luke	1-3
27		4-6
28		7-9

(June continued)

AUGUST		
1	1 Corinthians	12-14
2		15-16
3	2 Chronicles	1-4
4		5-7
5		8-11
6		12-15
7		Reflection
8		16-18
9		19-21
10		22-24
11		25-27
12		28-30
13		31-33
14		Reflection
15		34-36
16	Obadiah	
17	2 Corinthians	1-3
18		4-6
19		7-9
20		10-13
21		Reflection
22	Ezra	1-4
23		5-7
24		8-10
25	Nehemiah	1-3
26		4-7
27		8-10
28		11-13

(July continued)

JULY		
1	Luke	10-12
2		13-15
3		16-18
4		19-21
5		22-24
6	Amos	1-3
7		Reflection
8		4-6
9		7-9
10	1 Chronicles	1-4
11		5-8
12		9-11
13		12-14
14		Reflection
15		15-17
16		18-20
17		21-23
18		24-26
19		27-29
20	Hosea	1-4
21		5-8
22		Reflection
23		9-11
24		12-14
25		15-17
26		18-20
27		21-23
28		24-26

(July continued)

AUGUST		
1	1 Kings	10-12
2		13-15
3		16-18
4		19-21
5		22-24
6	Amos	1-3
7		Reflection
8		4-6
9		7-9
10	1 Chronicles	1-4
11		5-8
12		9-11
13		12-14
14		Reflection
15		15-17
16		18-20
17		21-23
18		24-26
19		27-29
20	Hosea	1-4
21		5-8
22		Reflection
23		9-11
24		12-14
25		15-17
26		18-20
27		21-23
28		24-26

(August continued)

APRIL		
1	Deuteronomy	27-30
2		31-34
3	James	1-2
4		3-5
5	Joshua	1-3
6		4-6
7		Reflection
8		7-9
9		10-12
10		13-15
11		16-18
12		19-21
13		22-24
14		Reflection
15	Matthew	1-4
16		5-7
17		8-10
18		11-13
19		14-16
20		17-19
21		Reflection

(August continued)

MAY		
1	Judges	13-15
2		16-18
3		19-21
4	Romans	1-3
5		4-5
6		6-8
7		Reflection
8		9-11
9		12-13
10		14-16
11	Ruth	1-3
12	Ephesians	1-3
13		4-6
14		Reflection
15	1 Samuel	1-3
16		4-6
17		7-9
18		10-12
19		13-15
20		16-19
21		Reflection
22		20-22
23		23-25
24		26-28
25	Philippians	29-31
26	2 Samuel	1-3
27		4-7
28		

(September continued)

SEPTEMBER		
1	1 Timothy	1-3
2		4-6
3	Esther	1-3
4		4-7
5		8-10
6	2 Timothy	1-3
7		Reflection
8	Job	1-3
9		4-6
10		7-9
11		10-12
12		13-15
13		16-18
14		Reflection
15		19-21
16		22-24
17		25-27
18		28-30
19		31-33
20		34-36

(September continued)

AUGUST		
1	1 Corinthians	12-14
2		15-16
3	2 Chronicles	1-4
4		5-7
5		8-11
6		12-15
7		Reflection
8		16-18
9		19-21
10		22-24
11		25-27
12		28-30
13		31-33
14		Reflection
15		34-36
16	Obadiah	
17	2 Corinthians	1-3
18		4-6
19		7-9
20		10-13
21		Reflection
22	Ezra	1-4
23		5-7
24		8-10
25	Nehemiah	1-3
26		4-7
27		8-10
28		11-13

(September continued)

JULY		
1	Luke	10-12
2		13-15
3		16-18
4		19-21
5		22-24
6	Amos	1-3
7		Reflection
8		4-6
9		7-9
10	1 Chronicles	1-4
11		5-8
12		9-11
13		12-14
14		Reflection
15		15-17
16		18-20
17		21-23
18		24-26
19		27-29
20	Hosea	1-4
21		5-8
22		Reflection
23		9-11
24		12-14
25		15-17
26		18-20
27		21-23
28		24-26

(September continued)

AUGUST		
1	1 Corinthians	12-14
2		15-16
3	2 Chronicles	1-4
4		5-7
5		8-11
6		12-15
7		Reflection
8		16-18
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10		22-24
11		25-27
12		28-30
13		31-33
14		Reflection
15		34-36
16	Obadiah	
17	2 Corinthians	1-3
18		4-6
19		7-9
20		10-13
21		Reflection
22	Ezra	1-4
23		5-7
24		8-10
25	Nehemiah	1-3
26		4-7
27		8-10
28		11-13

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteers needed to un-decorate the church

On January 7 following BOTH services we will be taking down the Christmas decoration and putting them away. Please plan on staying to help out.



Night of Prayer

We will be having two more evenings where you will have the opportunity to come into the sanctuary and pray for our church, our community, and the world. The dates scheduled are: Thursday, January 18 and Thursday, January 25 at 7:30 PM. If you are unable to make it out those evenings, please pray where you are if able. Also, Tuesdays and Friday at noon, there is an opportunity to come and pray each week.



Winter Jam - January 20

We are planning to send our youth to Winter Jam in Columbus on January 20. We are working with other area churches and will probably be leaving Kenton around 1 PM that day. More information to come as details are worked out. Please let Amy Long or the church office know if you are interested in attending. The cost is \$15 to get into the concert. They may be stopping to eat as well. We also need 2 adult volunteers to chaperone.

WE JUST WANT TO SAY... THANK YOU!

We would like to Thank all of our church family for the Christmas cards, delicious homemade treats, and gifts. We are truly blessed to serve along side you! You are all such a blessing to us. We appreciate how you have made us feel so welcome. How wonderful it is to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

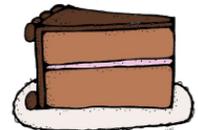
Love, Pastor Randall, Kathy, Augustin, and Angel



You're Invited to our



And Men's Cake Raffle!



Saturday, January 13, 2018

5:30 PM

St. John's Evangelical Church

Anyone can bring a pot of chili to share!

Hot dogs and drinks provided.

Cakes baked and frosted by our men will be raffled off starting around 7:00 PM.

If able, bring a cake to raffle off.

Come out for great time!!

211 East Carrol St., Kenton, OH 43326 419-673-7278



Our poinsettia sale finished last week, with the kids putting about \$96 into their accounts for camp.

**A spreadsheet was created that lists kids who have worked and the amount they have earned. I shared the spreadsheet with Kay Rush, treasurer, Kathy Forester, office assistant and Kristi Weaver, finance committee so



they can see the amounts earned at any time.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the spreadsheet, please let me know.

Thanks go out to Hope Cauley and Michele Sherman who generously donated their time at the Hymn Sing doing childcare.

Scavenger Hunt - We just had our MS/HS scavenger hunt on a cold, windy day. Kids traveled around Kenton taking pictures after receiving clues and then returned back to the church for a cool ice cream treat. Thanks go to Tara Freer, Sharon Martin, Eric Gossard, Kathy and Pastor Randall for being our adult assistants. Check out facebook to see what fun they had!!!

Lakeside Summer Camp (High School)

A \$50.00 deposit will be due by January 15 if you are planning on attending camp this summer, July 1-7. We have been invited to lodge with First Methodist Church.



Camp Cotubic, Bellefontaine - (Middle School)

A \$50.00 deposit will be due by January 15 if you are planning on attending this camp. It looks like the date will be June 23-June 28.

Campers can earn money toward their camp cost in several ways.

- Poinsettia sale just finished and proceeds went into camp accounts for those that sold flowers.
- Sub Sale in January for Super Bowl Sunday
- Chicken BBQ tickets to sell in March
- Attend services and participate in church sponsored events- For each month you attend at least two of our worship services and participate in a church event, you will be credited \$25 towards your camp account. (This is a camp credit, you are not able to receive any cash if you do not attend camp.)

Events you could use for Camp Credit: Yearly church meeting in January, Chili cook off & Cake raffle, Sunday School, other events to be announced.

Wed. Night Kids & Youth- We purchased Bibles for our kids this year, devotionals for those we've already given Bibles to.

We will start back on Wed. Jan 3 and continue on with our lessons about the Ten Commandments.

Upcoming Dates:

January - Date: Saturday, January 13 at 5:30pm

Chili cook off and men's cake raffle

Anyone can bring a pot of chili to share, we can get some hot dogs... After dinner, Dave Beazley has offered to be in charge of the Men's Cake raffle. Cakes would be baked and frosted by the men of our church then raffled off that evening. Proceeds from the evening will go toward our bed ministry, Operation Sleep Tight.



February- Super Bowl Sub sale- Youth Fundraiser

Members and friends can order ham/cheese, turkey/cheese/Italian subs meals for \$6.00. That includes chips and a water.

Kids can sell these outside of church and all profits from the subs they sell go towards their account.

Proceeds from the subs we sell at church will go towards the kids that come to prepare the subs and clean up afterward. That money would be equally split amongst those that work that day depending upon how long they worked.

We will prepare subs on Saturday, Feb. 3 from 9-finish and clean up in Fellowship Hall kitchen.



March- Best Smoothie Contest and Pet parade

Who can make the best smoothies at St. John's? Let's have several people create their favorite smoothies. That way, people can try several different flavors.

That same evening, we could have our first ever pet parade. For a nominal fee, they could register to enter their pet in one of several contests: Best dressed, Cutest, Best trick

We could have people parade their pets around in front of several judges and give a trophy to each category winner.

April 6 4:30-6:00pm- Drive thru Chicken BBQ (proceeds go to youth camps)

Drive thru in east parking lot.

Kids sell tickets to those outside church and receive all proceeds, making around \$5 per ticket sold.

Proceeds from tickets sold at church will be evenly split between all those who work at preparing and cleaning up when subs are made.

One last thing.....

140 envelope campaign continues. We've brought in over \$3,400 thus far. Many people are taking the higher amount envelopes, leaving the low numbers. Thank you for supporting our youth in this way. We will do our best to wisely use the funds you have donated to us.



THANK YOU TO THE SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS:

A Big Thank You to those who rang bells for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 2nd at Tractor Supply Company. Those people are Renae Sherman, Jane Baker, Sharon Martin, Sharon Styer, Ron Rogers and Gordon Donnelly. Thanks again, Heather Erwin, Salvation Army Treasurer

THANKSGIVING DINNER THANK YOU:

A HUGE thank you to all of the people that helped make the Helping Hands Community Thanksgiving Day Meal such a wonderful event. What a community effort. We feed between 600 and 700 people. Thank you to those who delivered to the shut-ins and homebound. The people were so grateful for a hot meal. Thank you to the people who cooked turkeys or hams, the people who made mashed potatoes and the people who donated cans of corn, cans of green beans, rolls, cake and pies. They was all appreciated. Thank you to St. John's Evangelical Church for allowing the use of the Fellowship Hall and Church kitchen. People sat and visited which made it more like a Family Thanksgiving. Volunteers came and went working as long as their schedules allowed. Oh, what a blessing the volunteers were. They were so willing to help wherever they were needed. The ecumenical spirit was wonderful. Everyone worked together with no barriers. What a warm feeling we all went home with. It truly was a Happy Thanksgiving.

Blessing to all, Heather and Jo Ann Erwin, co-organizers

St. John's Evangelical Church
Church Council Meeting Notes
Thursday, November 9, 2017
7:00 PM

Present: Carol Wilcox, Oliver Heldman, Pastor Forester, Jim Bidwell, Mark Sherman, Mary Ralston, Heather Erwin, Kristi Weaver, Mike Styer, Kristina VanBuskirk, Dave Beazley, Greg Martin, Nancy Rickenbacher and Amy Long & Kay Rush

The meeting was called to order by Carol Wilcox with Pastor Randall opening with prayer.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: Pastor Forester led.

OFFICER'S REPORT

Secretary's Report—Kristi Weaver

- October 12, 2017 Minutes – Motion and seconded to accept minutes as presented. Council Vote, Motion passed.

REPORTS

Finance—Kristi Weaver

- Kay gave an update
- Financial Secretary's Report- Review of month income.
- Mailed statements to those that pledged. Everyone is pretty much on target to pledges. Thinks that everyone will meet what was pledged.
- Russ and Kay have worked on the budget. Working on making it closer to the income. Any big project is not in the budget. Will have to have a meeting and go to the money market.
- Stewardship update –Passed out the giving percentage last week. Amy has put together some slides for this week plus will be going over pledge card. November 19th is Consecration Sunday. Kay has volunteered to be an Usher that day so that she can take the pledge cards.

Christian Education

Children's Report - Amy Long

- Written report passed out for review prior to the meeting. No questions noted.
- Lakeside – Have information on the cabins, and house from last year. Amy has a list of kids interested. There is a Lakeside meeting this week that some interested are going to.
- Had 65-70 kids this past Wednesday. It is going very well for both groups.
- Middle School going to Pizza Hut and Children to McDonalds next week due to the Women's Celebration.
- Discussion of Safe Sanctuary and what should we do for the Youth Events. What do we need to do as far as approvals? Please prayerfully think about it for the next meeting.
- Please continue to pray for Blaze and the family. Biker Strong is doing an event in Ada. We are supporting the family with providing snacks weekly now.
- Discussion of the envelope fund raiser explained at the last meeting. The intention is to raise money for the youth programs for next year. Will start it when they get it arranged.
- Discussion of the desire to get the bus running on Sunday.

Women's Ministry—Kay Rush

- Dec 5 Hardin Ag Association – need volunteers
- Dec 14 Township Trustee Dinner – need volunteers
- Discussion of if we want to list the "wants" in a newsletter.
- Discussion of should we put something in the newspaper about what we are doing. The goal is to share the good things that we do.
- Women's Ministry paying for the McDonald's and Pizza Hut next week.
- Paid \$5,000 toward the painting.
- Called to do the Veteran's Banquet, but it did not work out. Would like to do it next year free of charge. Moved and seconded to waive the fee for a Veteran's Banquet next year. Council Vote, motion carried.

Worship, Arts & Music—Dave Beazley

- Continuing to move forward in the idea for greeters

- Look for Sensory Worship during Advent.
- Will decorate November 26th.
- Need to remember to ask for bank messenger for Christmas Eve service.

Bus Committee—Dave Beazley/Oliver Heldman

- Will have an auxillary driver next week and picking up the mission team.
- Jane is taking the mission team to the airport

Cruise-in Committee—Nancy Rickenbacher/Oliver Heldman

- Nothing to report

Personnel Committee—Kristina VanBuskirk

- Nothing to report

Pastoral Relations—Carol Wilcox

- Meeting November 19th

Trustees—Greg Martin

- Talked to someone about the drywall tonight. Price will depend on what is found when taking off the existing drywall in the lobby.
- Discussed the baptismal tub with a serviceman from Lima.
- Car with flat tire is gone.

Farm—Jim Bidwell

- Nothing to Report, will meet this month.

Missions—Mary Ralston

- CEF banquet is this Saturday.
- Will be doing snacks for the Good News Club at the elementary.
- Susan and Jamie Range are setting up a mission for Bolivia in May or June 2018. Would like to know if we can publicize. Does anyone object? This will gauge the interest. No objections noted.
- Got the figures on the playground at Forest Court - \$1,600, \$1,200, and \$1,200. Will look at doing it in the spring. This will just fix the ground.
- Went to Scioto Village to see what they have, and they do not have a playground.
- Meeting November 16th.

Audio/Visual—Mike Styer

- Got the new computer
- Putting together a wish list to add to what Women's Ministry has of "wants"

Evangelism—Heather Erwin/Mark Sherman

- Had Sunday clean up at the end of October, went well. Raked leaves, made 9 blankets, some cleaning was done in the sanctuary and lobby.
- Been contacted by Love Inc on beds, have 2 to give right now. Will be starting a list on the beds distributed. Have about 30 mattresses donated. Keep an eye out for twin size sheets and mattress covers on sale.

President's Report—Carol Wilcox

- Really appreciate all the great work Council does, thank you.

Pastor's Report—Pastor Randall

- Written report provided for review prior to meeting.
- Discussion of the UCC and the Faithful and Welcoming group part of the Written report.
- Contacted about being a Military Chaplin. Discussion that council did not have any issue with Pastor investigating.
- Discussion of the church survey. Chat - \$400, Lifeway about \$250. Do we want to consider it next year? Decision to not do it at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Nomination Committee Report- Mike Styer requested help with finding Nominees. Hope to have it narrowed down for next meeting.
- Personnel – Wedding Coordinator – Will have a new job description for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Love Inc needs a new St. John’s representative. Mary Ralston agreed to be the St. John’s representative.
- Reports are requested to be in to the office for the annual meeting by December 31st.
- Need finalize the council changes so it can go out in the December newsletter.
- Discussion of if we need to have a review, last one was several years ago. Carol will discuss with potential members.
- Annual Meeting discussion– January 28th 2018 – Discussion of what time it should be done at, and decided 4:30 with a potluck.
- Amanda (Hastings) Wilson – Request to remove membership as she lives in Virginia. Motion made and seconded to accept, Council Vote, motion carried.
- Kay will help Oliver with the Christmas Giving. They will contact Helping Hands to get families.
- Met with Eric’s team. Marching in the Christmas Parade for him. Mary Ralston to put it in the bulletin.

Next Meeting: December 12 at 7:00 PM

Refreshments for next meeting– Carol

ADJOURNMENT – Motion made and seconded to adjourn, council vote, meeting adjourned.

LORD’S PRAYER

<u>Summary of Finances for November 2017</u>	
<u>Income:</u>	
Envelopes	\$20,498.00
Loose offering and faith time	<u>\$ 739.00</u>
Total Income	\$21,237.00
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Staff Expense	\$12,437.00
Administration Expense	\$ 333.00
Utilities & Maintenance (electric is \$1482.00)	\$ 3,607.00
WAM	\$ 16.00
Christian Ed	\$ 54.00
Video	\$ 1962.00
Evangelism	\$ 58.00
Youth	<u>\$ 35.00</u>
Total Expense	\$ 18,502.00
POSITIVE BALANCE	\$2,735.00

Mission of the Month

Jamie & Susan Range

Jamie and Susan Range left Bolivia in July 2016, but did not leave Pioneers. They have moved back to the states and are excited to transition into a ministry focus within Pioneers, a ministry that equips people to understand and reach out to Muslims. Bringing to the team (Encountering the World of Islam) our experience on the field, we will help develop curriculum in Spanish, teach, and build the program in Central and South American countries, while based in Colorado. Jamie's job is to be facilitator for this region.



Friday With Friends

Friday With Friends is a wonderful group of widows, widowers, and single seniors who meet twice a month for a special time of food, fellowship, and fun. We meet the first and third Fridays of every month. Please join us if you are a widow, widower, or single senior adult. This is not exclusive to St. John's, so pass the word along to someone that you know who could be blessed by this special group. For more information, contact Ethel Koch at 419-674-6344.



Forthcoming outings will be as follows:

- If out of town, meet at St. John's at 11 am to carpool.
- January 5: Viva Maria—Ada
- January 19: Skinny's—Kenton
- February 2: Pizza Hut—Kenton
- February 16: 68 Grill—Bellefontaine
- March 2: Beer Barrel Pizza—Findlay
- March 16: Longhorn—Roundhead

Worship Attendance		
November 26:	8:30 a.m.	61
	10:30 a.m.	84
December 3:	8:30 a.m.	52
	10:30 a.m.	81
December 10:	8:30 a.m.	62
	10:30 a.m.	91
December 17:	8:30 a.m.	55
	10:30 a.m.	107



Birthday Blessings (over 80 yrs. Young)

Happy Birthday!! Please contact the church office if a name was omitted from the list. Thank you so much.

- January 5 : Ann Height
115 Harding Ave.
Kenton, OH 43326
- January 9: Paul Rickenbacher
20551 SR 67E
Kenton, OH 43326

Church Staff:

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester
 Children's Ministry: Amy Long
 Financial Secretary: Kay Rush
 Church Secretary: Kathy Forester
 Custodian: Harry Long
 Chancel Choir Director: David Beazley
 Contemporary Worship Leader: Kendra Dilts
 Organists: Randall S. Rogers, Teresa Broseke and Linda Zeigler
 Children's Choirs Director: Hope Cauley
 Bell Choir Director: Jane Baker
 Technical Support: Richard Katterjohn
 Historian: Gerald Pfister



January 2018

Happy New Year to all of our St. John's Brothers and Sisters. Another January has come with all of its promise and resolutions. But the month of January has clearly been a very important part of the



Christian calendar. Let's take a look at what the month means to our Faith.

"Traditionally, the original Roman calendar consisted of 10 months totaling 304 days, winter being considered a month-less period. Around 713 BC, the semi-mythical successor of Romulus, King Numa Pompilius, is supposed to have added the months of January and February, so that the calendar covered a standard lunar year (354 days).

Beginning in the 16th century, European countries began officially making January 1 the start of the New Year once again—sometimes called *Circumcision Style* because this was the date of the Feast of the Circumcision, being the seventh day after December 25.

The **Feast of the Circumcision of Christ** is a Christian celebration of the circumcision of Jesus in accordance with Jewish tradition, eight days (according to the Semitic and southern European calculation of intervals of days) after his birth, the occasion on which the child was formally given his name.

The circumcision took place, not in the Temple, though painters sometimes so represent it, but in the home. The circumcision of Jesus has traditionally been seen, as the first time the blood of Christ was shed, and thus the beginning of the process of the redemption of man, and a demonstration that Christ was fully human, and of His obedience to Biblical law.

Since it was a feast of Christ and related directly to Scriptural passages (notably Luke 2:21), the Feast of Circumcision was retained by churches of the Lutheran Reformation. It remains on most Lutheran liturgical calendars to this day, although there has been a general move to call it "The Name of Jesus." Martin Luther preached at least one notable sermon on this feast day which is still available in his Church Postils, and up until the late 1970s, Lutheran hymnbooks would contain several hymns relating to this subject.

The **Feast of Baptism of Christ** is the feast day commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. Originally the baptism of Christ was celebrated on Epiphany, which commemorates the coming of the Magi, the baptism of Christ, and the wedding at Cana. Over time in the West, however, the celebration of the baptism of the Lord came to be commemorated as a distinct feast from Epiphany. It is celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church as well as the Anglican and Lutheran Churches on the first Sunday following The Epiphany of Our Lord (6 January)." *Various sources referenced.*

As you see January is a really great month for celebrating our Savior. Let's savor January with knowledge of the wonderful events we celebrate.

Jerry Pfister, Historian



The church council approved the following document outlining Baptism at St. John's developed by a special committee. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask. A complete copy can be obtained from the church office.

The St. John's Way Regarding Infant Baptism, Dedication and Adult Baptism

We believe that Baptism is a Sacrament of God's Grace. It is His Divine initiative signifying union with Christ; the forgiveness of sins, the gift of the Holy Spirit and reception into Christ's Holy Church. The Sacrament is a visible sign of accepting God's Grace. Baptism as such conveys title of this gift of God's Grace to the baptized person. This person may receive the gift of Grace by faith, before, during or after receiving the sacrament. The act of baptism is a sign of Grace by which God works invisibly in us, but only those sincere in repentance of sin and faith in Christ will truly join the Kingdom. Infants that are baptized and die before actual sin are undoubtedly saved. (refer 1. in addendum)

St. John's embraces the Holy Scriptures as referenced in the Heidelberg Catechism as the basis for administration of the Sacraments within the Church. Why is there a need for us to now define a more structured conformance to Scripture in the Sacrament of Baptism?

"..the covenant is the germ, the root, the pith of all revelation, and consequently of all theology; it is the clue to the whole history of redemption" Pierre Marcel from "The Biblical Doctrine of Infant Baptism"

"The price we are having to pay today in the shape of the collapse of organized religion is only the inevitable consequence of our policy of making grace available at all too low a cost. We gave away the Word and Sacraments wholesale; we baptized, confirmed and absolved a whole nation without asking awkward questions, or insisting on strict condition. Our humanitarian sentiment made us give that which was holy to the scornful and unbelieving. We poured forth unending streams of grace. But the call to follow Jesus was hardly ever heard. Where were those truths which impelled the early Church to institute the catechumenate, which enabled a strict watch to be kept over the frontier between the Church and the world, and afforded adequate protection for costly grace?....To baptize infants without bringing them up in the life of the Church is not only an abuse of the sacrament, it betokens a disgusting frivolity in dealing with the souls of the children themselves. For Baptism can never be repeated." Dietrich Bonhoeffer from "The Cost of Discipleship"

Process outline for Infant Baptism, Dedication:

1. Those desirous of having a child or ward baptized under normal circumstances must agree to a prior counseling session with the Pastor who is to administer the Sacrament.
2. The Pastor is responsible for explaining the Covenantal nature of the Sacrament that the parent or sponsor is accepting on behalf of the child. This is to be done "using as a basis" the Heidelberg Catechism questions and answers numbered 66 through 74. (refer addendum 2.)
3. The parent or sponsor must understand that they are agreeing to a Covenant with God to raise the child within the Church (Body of Christ).
4. Baptism may be done by affusion or immersion in the Sanctuary, Baptistery, or any body of water suitable for this circumstance.
5. Witnesses to the Sacrament should be Members of the Congregation or Elders whenever possible to ratify the Church's obligation to the infant.
6. In those cases such as imminent mortality, or mental impairment of the child, the Senior Pastor or Associate Pastor can waive items 1 through 5.

Process outline for Adult Baptism:

1. Adults desiring baptism under normal circumstances must have either been confirmed in the Church using the Heidelberg Catechism or agree to being instructed in same by the Pastor or delegate. The scheduling of this instruction will be at the agreement of the parties.
2. The Pastor is responsible for explaining the Covenantal nature of the Sacraments and the obligations to the Body of Christ that emanate from God's Grace through Christ's blood.
3. Baptism may be done by affusion or immersion in the Sanctuary, Baptistery, or any body of water suitable for this circumstance.
5. Witnesses to the Sacrament should be Members of the Congregation or Elders whenever possible to ratify the Church's obligation to the Congregant.
6. In those cases such as imminent mortality, coma or significant mental impairment the Senior Pastor or Associate Pastor can waive items 1 through 5.

Addendum to The St. John's Way Regarding Infant Baptism, Dedication and Adult Baptism September 2016

1. *"That baptism is a sacrament generally necessary to salvation, but that of the grace of regeneration does not so necessarily accompany the act of baptism that regeneration invariably takes place in baptism; that the grace may be granted before, in, or after baptism; that baptism is an effectual sign of grace by which God works invisibly in us, but only in such as worthily receive it - in them alone it has a wholesome effect; and that without reference to the qualification of the recipient it is not in itself an effectual sign of grace; that infants baptized and dying before actual sin are undoubtedly saved, but that in no case is regeneration in baptism unconditional." Gorham Judgment March 9, 1850*

2. The Heidelberg Catechism #66 through #74 with Scriptural quotations (made available upon request)

Hymn Spotlight: **Go Tell it on the Mountain**

The contribution of unknown African American slaves to Christian music is remarkable. As a largely uneducated people, longing for freedom, suffering incredible cruelty and humiliation, many still somehow managed to encounter the powerful touch of the Holy Spirit in ways that manifested themselves in songs of unparalleled majesty and beauty.

Even more amazing than the songs themselves is the fact that any survived at all. Many of these composers of spirituals could not read or write. For the most part, their works were unpublished for decades and passed along only in the oral tradition. A few songs were spread from the fields to small slave churches along roads via work gangs, and eventually to white churches and even large concert halls in both the South and North. Many, however, were lost, their inspirational lessons in song forgotten, as were the testimonies they contained. Perhaps all of them would have been gone had it not been for a very special American family and the dynamic voices of a college choir.

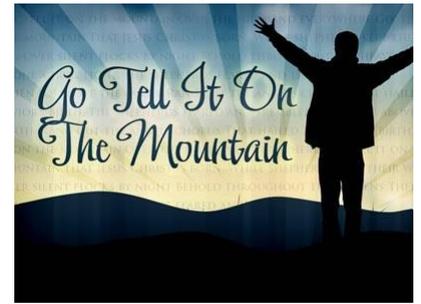
Not long after the Civil War, a man named John Wesley Work was an African American church choir director in Nashville, Tennessee. A scholar as well as a musician, Work had a deep interest in music that defined the experience of the Negro in America. One of the few educated African Americans in the South, Work felt the new generation of black southerners might best understand the importance of spirituality by learning the songs their ancestors sang during the days of slavery.

In Work's choir were several members of the Fish Jubilee Singers from the nearby black college of the same name. As Work influenced the Jubilee Singers with his thoughts and music, the singers would pass that influence to the world through their uplifting arrangements of Negro spirituals. During an era when few Negroes were able to travel more than a few miles from their birthplace, the Fisk Jubilee Singers toured the world, appearing in England before Queen Victoria and at the White House in front of President Chester Arthur. Their music revealed a passion for life and living that few people had ever experienced, and they became a monumental force in first exposing the musical talents of African Americans.

John Work passed his love of music and history onto his son, John Wesley Work II. The latter became a folk singer, composer, and collector of Negro spirituals, and, eventually, a professor of history and Latin at Fisk College. His wife was the music teacher for the Jubilee Singers. Along with Work's brother, Frederick, this second generation of Works kept the flames of spiritual music burning brightly and saved a huge number of Negro folk songs from being lost or forgotten.

There will always be some debate over who first uncovered the song "Go Tell It on the Mountain," but Frederick Work was one of the first to note the song's power and potential. The song had come from the fields of the South, born from the inspiration of a slave's Christmas, and it was unique in that, of the hundreds of Negro spirituals the Work family saved from extinction, few had been written about Christmas. Most, as would seem only natural, centered on earthly pain and suffering, and the joy and happiness that only heaven seemed to offer. Yet here, standing against the backdrop of such haunting spirituals as "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child," was "Go Tell It on the Mountain," a triumphant piece that embraced the wonder of lowly shepherds touched by God at the very first Christmas. John II and Frederick studied the words and the basic melody to the song. Not wanting to change the dramatic impact of the song's lyrics, they left them intact, but the brothers did rearrange the music into an anthem-like structure that would suit choirs such as the Fisk Jubilee Singers. Beginning in the 1880's, that group took the song to the world.

As the Fisk Jubilee Singers introduced the song to the people throughout this country and beyond, many compared the melody to two other Civil War songs, "We'll March Around Jerusalem" and "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are Marching." The Work brothers might have been influenced by both of these folk songs, but neither of them could come close to the message and the power of the words that sprang from a lowly slave's heart. With no hope of earthly freedom, probably unable to even read the Bible, this unknown slave imagined the emotions of shepherds as a powerful light from heaven shone down on them. Frightened by a power they couldn't begin to understand, they were greeted by angelic voices trumpeting the birth of a Savior. Leaving their flock, not fully understanding why they were going, these confused men went to see a baby in the most humble of surroundings. And in that place, these shepherds found understanding, knowledge, and love. As crowds listened to the choir from Fisk perform the song, many were brought to tears, others to their knees.



(continued on next page)

In 1909, “Go Tell It on the Mountain” was published in Thomas P. Fenner's book *Religious Folk Songs of the Negro as Sung on the Plantations*. Still, without the continued contribution of a third generation of the Work family, this song, and scores of other spirituals, would probably have faded away forever.

Like his father and grandfather, John Work III, a graduate of Julliard, was a devoted student of history and music. Embracing his family's passion, this third-generation member of the Work family continued to uncover and save unknown spirituals, many times traveling hundreds of miles to seek out elderly slaves who had sung them in the fields. John Work III devoted years of his life documenting this important facet of American culture. In the midst of the great depression, Work took another look at what his uncle and father had done with “Go Tell It On the Mountain.” Using their notes and arrangements as well as the materials he had dug up through interviews and research, he took the old song and reworked it one more time, adding a new arrangement and at least one new stanza. It is unknown if Work composed these new lyrics or simply found them during his research, but they fit perfectly with the words the Fisk Jubilee Singers had sung fifty years before. John Work III's arrangement – the one we know today – was published in *American Negro Songs and Spirituals* in 1940.

Since that time, the popularity of “Go Tell It on the Mountain” has continued to grow. The song's melody is infectious, but it is the spirit of the words that seem to provide the song's real power. As an unknown slave revealed his own prayers and faith, he had little knowledge that the inspiration he felt – probably the only thing of value he ever possessed – would eventually touch millions around the world. Truly, this humble man did not tell the news only on the mountain, but “over the hills and everywhere.”

**PROPOSED
BYLAW
CHANGES**

Please review the following proposed changes to the church by-laws provided by the church council. If you have any questions, please see a member of council. These proposed changes will be on the agenda at the annual meeting on January 28.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CHURCH BY-LAWS

The Council will be reduced to 6 Elders and 3 Trustees. The term of service will remain at three years with a limit of two consecutive terms. The Council can evolve to this level as existing members reach their term limits or resign for any reason.

To achieve this level, redundancy of existing Committees will require the following Changes to the By-Laws to the Constitution:

1. Merger of existing Evangelism, Celebrate Freedom, and Missions Committees into one Committee.
2. Consolidate existing Bus, Farm, Audio Visual Committees under the leadership of the Trustees.
3. The Pastoral Relations Committee will now be comprised of the Council Members with said meetings being held only in Executive Session.
4. No changes requires for Personnel, Finance, WAM, Women's Ministries.
5. One Council Trustee will represent the Trustees at the monthly or special meetings. The Trustees will nominate an alternate from the Congregation to serve in any function required to maintain the Church facilities. This designee may attend the Council meetings as deemed necessary by the Trustees, however only one Trustee may vote at any meeting.
6. Each of the Five non-Trustee Committees will be chaired by an Elder, who will nominate a member of that Committee to act in his/her place should some event preclude meeting attendance. The designee would represent the Committee at the meeting with voting rights.
7. The existing rule of the President not voting except in case of a tied vote or a sealed ballot will remain in place. As well the President may attend and Committee meeting at his/her discretion.
8. All staff and Committee reports must be made in writing and be distributed to Council five days prior to the meeting with the exception of the Financial Secretaries Report. If there is nothing to report it will be so noted at the bottom of the agenda and not discussed. This must be a regularly attending member of St. John's.
9. Paid staff with the exception of the Financial Secretary will no longer be required to attend the Council Meetings unless a question arises from their written report. Attendance of Congregants to Council is welcome, however those wishing to formally address Council with any issue or concern, must bring the a written statement of the issue or request to the Church Secretary five days prior to the Council Meeting for inclusion on the agenda. Issues not on the agenda will only be addressed by consent of Council.

Revised Financial Approval levels to be put in place recognizing current costs:

Any repair under the purvey of the Trustees which costs below \$25,000 should be made on approval of Council should adequate fund be available. Discreet expenditures above this level require Congregational Approval.

Any unplanned expenditure not under Trustee purvey, up to \$10,000 may be approved by Council should adequate funds be available. Discreet expenditures above this level require Congregational Approval.

Revised Financial Rule regarding use of Church Funds:

All funds generated by any Committee or Ministry of the Church are to be spent as approved by the Congregation in the annual budget unless directed by bequest. All funding from any sources for any expenditures is to be distributed by Council unless approved otherwise in advance by Council. Recommendations by any ministry must be made through a Committee

Revised guidelines for eligibility for candidacy for Elders and Trustees

No husband and wife or parent and child should be serving at the same time.

Candidates for Elder or Trustee should be given and agree to the following listing of responsibilities/expected practices prior to being listed as Candidates at the annual meeting.

Responsibilities

This is what you are agreeing to if you are elected by the Congregation as an Elder or Trustee of St. John's Evangelical Church.

- Establishing clear and workable directions, goals and plans of action.
- Helping the congregation understand and value the work of the Council.
- Developing a budget for use by the Church.
- Insuring that your church has an overall sense of its purpose and mission.
- Insuring that your church is clear about its major ministries and mission objectives, and sets plans to accomplish them.
- Reviewing and evaluating the programs and activities of your church to insure they are faithful to the tradition of the church and consistent with your ministries and mission objectives.
- Encouraging members to partake regularly in communion, contribute to the financial support of the church and attend services. In some churches members are removed from the active members' list or roll if they do not participate in any of these ways for a specified period of time.
- Responsible for the discipline of members, reviewing applicants for church membership, contacting members who do not attend worship, and determining who should be removed from church rolls.
- Letting the pastor know about the pastoral needs of members and about potential new members.
- Letting the appropriate people know about members who are having personal or professional problems or problems related to the church and ministering to these people yourself.
- Letting the appropriate people know about members and their families who are sick, and ministering to these people yourself.
- Reviewing the Confirmands' instruction in the faith and authorizing their confirmation.
- Recuse oneself from voting on any issue which may present a conflict of interest
- Preparing for and assisting the pastor in serving communion.
- Accompanying the pastor in visits to families facing crises and difficulties.
- Functioning as a pastoral relations committee.
- Leading the annual stewardship education and promotion program.
- Attending meetings of the Church Council and representing that board on assigned committees.
- Attending church services regularly.
- Working at the resolution of conflicts that arise within the congregation.

Skills and Attributes Needed

- Christian character and good works that give you the respect of church members.
- Faithfulness as a Christian.
- Willingness to be a servant of God, of God's people and of the church.
- Knowledge of the Christian faith and the tradition of the Christian Church.
- Willingness to pray aloud.
- Willingness to maintain confidences.
- Ability to listen.
- Ability to communicate ideas clearly.
- Ability to relate well with the church staff in openness and trust.
- Understanding of how groups function.
- Knowledge of how to motivate members to perform needed ministries.
- Ability to manage conflict productively.
- Knowledge of the people in the congregation.
- Knowledge of the denomination.